

JOHN A. SMITH.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 421.]

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MAY 24, 1842.

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Mr. STUART, of Virginia, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT:

*The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John A. Smith, report :*

This petition was before the Committee on Foreign Affairs in 1836, and a favorable report made thereon, accompanied by a bill for the relief of the petitioner, which, however, was not reached in the order of business. In 1838, the petition was again referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which approved and adopted the former report and bill. The committee, having attentively considered the merits of the petition, adopt the report of 1st July, 1836, hereto annexed, and report a bill for the relief of the petitioner.

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MARCH 6, 1838.

Mr. CUSHING, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John A. Smith, reported :

This petition was before the same committee in the last Congress, and a bill was reported in his favor, which was not reached in the order of business.

The committee adopt the same report, and accordingly report a bill in favor of the petitioner.

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JULY 1, 1836.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John A. Smith, report :

The petitioner represents that he was secretary of the legation of the United States at London in 1825, and was left in charge of the legation, as chargé d'affaires *ad interim*, for the space of about six months, in the interval between the departure of one minister and the arrival of his successor; and that again, in 1829, being secretary of the American legation at Paris, he discharged, in like manner, and under the same circumstances,

the functions of charge *ad interim*, for the space of about four months; and he prays to be allowed an outfit as chargé, and a quarter's salary for his return home.

It appears that the petitioner has received an allowance of salary as chargé during the time that he actually discharged the duties of that office.

There is a want of fixed rule, in the practice of this Government, as to the outfit or infit of a public functionary, in the situation of the petitioner. Congress have withheld or accorded the allowance discretionally, according to the length of service, or other circumstance attending the case.

The committee are of opinion that it would be just and equitable to allow the petitioner a quarter's salary for his return, in full of all claims against the United States; and they report a bill in conformity with such opinion.

## REPORT

Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John A. Smith, report

This petition was before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 1835, and a favorable report made thereon, accompanied by a bill for the relief of the petitioner, which, however, was not reached in the order of business. In 1836, the petition was again referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which approved and adopted the former report and bill. The committee, having attentively considered the merits of the petition, adopt the report of the July 1836, hereto annexed, and report a bill for the relief of the petitioner.

MAY 1836

Mr. Pearce, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported, and the petition of John A. Smith, reported. This petition was before the same committee in the last Congress, and all was reported in his favor, which was not reached in the order of business. The committee adopt the same report, and accordingly report a bill on the part of the petitioner.

JULY 1836

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John A. Smith, report:

The petitioner represents that he was secretary of the Legation of the United States at London in 1825, and was left in charge of the Legation during the absence of the Minister, for the space of about six months. In the year 1826, he was appointed to one Minister and the Legation of the United States at London, being secretary of the Legation, and that again in 1829, being secretary of the Legation, and that again in 1830, in the manner and under the circumstances